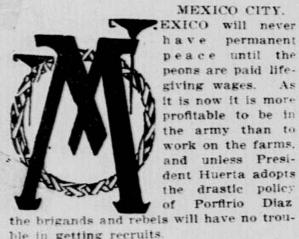
## MEXICAN GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTING TO SOLVE SOME OF THE GREAT LABOR PROBLEMS

THE Fight for Ten Hours and a Minimum Wage. Factories Where Boys Work for 10 Cents a Day and Men Get From 50 Cents to a Dollar-A Look at the Cotton Mills-Wages of Mechanics-The Debt Slaves of the Plantations and How They Are Paid-A Shrewd American Scheme to Get Labor-How Money Talks-The Mexican Pauper-Behind the Scenes in a Mexican Hut-How the Peons Dress,

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administration is trying to some of the policies inaugurathim and the indications are that the labor troubles are only at their begin-

I have some figures before me which from the secretary of agriculture.

it runs from that to 45 cents, whereas in There are something like 40,000 laborers employed in the large factories, and their average wages per day are 50 cents gold. The government is trying to remedy wages. The institutions are favored ac- tories as well. but little has yet been accomplished.

factory hands. There is another cotton getting little more than their clothing and work for them, and the wages they mortgage his future in order to have a factory in the state of the work more than the proposed were higher than the peons had big wedding outfit, and when deaths here about 16,000,000 men, women and to describe the conditions of the work more than the proposed were higher than the peons had big wedding outfit, and when deaths here about 16,000,000 men, women and tains to the capital and back, a distance shantles not more than the peons had big wedding outfit, and when deaths here about 16,000,000 men, women and to the work more than the peons had big wedding outfit, and near the railroad on the way occur there is more debt on account of children, and of these more than three- of about 400 miles, in a little more than height, and near the railroad on the way.







A HOME. IN THE LOWLANDS OF SILVER DOLLARS WHICH BOUGHT MEXICAN LABOR

these conditions. It has established a wage is about 20 cents a day, and until along from hand to mouth, receiving a ders. The peons came over in a body years since peonage or debt slavery was that which flowed through the veins of ico were brought to Montezuma's table department of labor, which has already lately the hours have been long. Nearly little spending money now and then, and and were instructed by the Americans to abolished by law, but that law is a dead the Aztecs. There are several millions of within twenty-four hours from the time

can contractor who has been putting up endados or others who want workmen their contracts were registered with the ministration is trying also to improve buildings all over Mexico. He tells me and can find none in the market. It is officials of the district so that they bethe condition of the laborers on the farms that the ordinary mechanic's wage in difficult to get a peon away from his old came legally bound to their American by giving back lands to the towns and the cities is from 50 cents to \$1 a day. master, and this is especially so if he has employers, Carpenters get \$1 for good work, and been fairly well treated. the large estates. As to this, however, bricklayers and masons the same. In the And still I find that money talks quite Mexico, but really this form of debt factories are working from 5:30 o'clock contractor found that six of his men and the promises of the foreigners fell aiding in keeping the men on the job. him how it came that the foreman had the working from 5:30 o'clock contractor found that six of his men and the promises of the foreigners fell aiding in keeping the men on the job. him how it came that the foreman had the working from 5:30 o'clock contractor found that six of his men and the promises of the foreigners fell aiding in keeping the men on the job. him how it came that the foreman had the working from 5:30 o'clock contractor found that six of his men and the promises of the foreigners fell aiding in keeping the men on the job. him how it came that the foreman had the working from 5:30 o'clock contractor found that six of his men and the promises of the foreigners fell aiding in keeping the men on the job. him how it came that the foreman had the promises of the foreigners fell aiding in keeping the men on the job. were doing so well that he could raise flat. their wages 50 per cent. They were receiving \$1 a day, and he gave them \$1.50. The result was that he got only three At last the Americans brought in sev- day, and it is the hope of the most ad- the peon, saying: off at 4 p.m. In the mills in days of work the next week, and he final-eral bushels of new Mexican dollars, and vanced that it may be accomplished.

one to assume their debts, and this is ers and saw that they were legally freed. Nominally there is now no slavery in

coast towns, where there is plenty to do as loudly here as on the other side of the slavery is still in existence. The around the wharves, the wages are high- boundary. At least it did so not long ago rich estate owners have practically con- rupt than the worst practices of the twenty-fifth that of ours. Right here at presents he received from Montezuma less number of days of work furnished. The man who gets \$1 a day will work and the only two or three days a week, and if offered big wages, but in vain. All the he gets \$2 he may work a while and the worst practices of the development of the work and the worst practices of the Mexican capital you can find the was a golden plate as big as a cart wheel. A merican loan shark. In this instance the Mexican capital you can find the was a golden plate as big as a cart wheel. A merican loan shark. In this instance the Mexican capital you can find the was a golden plate as big as a cart wheel. A merican loan shark in the worst proclems the mean to go into the man was a golden plate as big as a cart wheel. A merica less number of days of work furnished. rubber plantation in the tropical low- who can force the men to go into the The man who gets \$1 a day will work lands, and were hard up for labor. They army, and it is through them that they lay off for a month. A few weeks ago a slavery to the owners of the estates about, same with the factories, the jefe-politicos took this book to his master, and asked by tapping the keys.

higher wages than those I have mention- but millions of the farm hands and their to pay the debts of the peons provided can. This is especially so at the times master.

big wedding outfit, and when deaths here about 16,000,000 men, women and tains to the capital and back, a distance snanties not more than the babies, likewise, go naked occur there is more debt on account of children, and of these more than three- of about 400 miles, in a little more than height, and near the railroad on the way The babies, likewise, go naked occur there is more debt on account of children, and of these more than three- of about 400 miles, in a little more than height, and near the railroad on the way The babies, likewise, go naked occur there is more debt on account of children, and of these more than three- of about 400 miles, in a little more than height, and near the railroad on the way The babies, likewise, go naked occur there is more debt on account of children, and of these more than three- of about 400 miles, in a little more than height, and near the railroad on the way The babies, likewise, go naked. to fifteen years of age. Here the average ing their debts, and as a result they work The sight of the money worked won- the funerals. It is now over forty fourths are Indians, of as pure blood as a week. Fresh fish from the Gulf of Mex- to Mexico City you may see families liv-

I heard the other night a story of how forcing machine is one of the questions ceived \$5. The master called in the fore-

"You ignorant fellow, can't you see you the Aztecs at the time Cortez came. They ization and in this year of our Lord 1913. the hardest. The sandals cost about 25 which that rule prevails the cloth made ly had to discharge the whole gang and laid them in great piles on the table in swhite cotton sheeting, and the regular bring in new men at the old rate of the mide by the system has been complete and wide- owe \$15? First there was the \$5 you had their own records and picture writ- reaching, and all sorts of methods have asked me for; second, the \$5 I gave you, including which formed their reaching, and all sorts of methods have asked me for; second, the \$5 I gave you, they have huts of sun-dried brick, many er strips tied to the bare feet with strings they have not so find they have huts of sun-dried brick, many er strips tied to the bare feet with strings. They have not so find they have no biggest cotton mills here are those of cient as ours, and that one American will plantation office. They then called in the Nearly every big estate has its store, your account. Now three times five is do now. Mexico City then had 120,000 stand upright in them. The rooms are less clothing than on the plateau, a com-Orizaba. They employ 10,000 hands, the lay more bricks than four Mexicans.

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They offered child and the money, say-where the Indian laborers can run bills fifteen. You owe \$15, and you must get stone houses and Montezuma had other small and dark. Some of the houses and will and star they had brought it them they had brought it they had company makes a large profit. It pays run from 15 cents and upward per day, to pay them wages as well. They offered child, and he will borrow all that he ed upon the peon by an unscrupulous der. He had a system of postal stations more than brick boxes. They are very the less said about their clothes the betand his courier service was such that re- like the homes of the fellahin on the ter. A little back of Tampleo and near ed, and it has built 1,200 houses for its families are in a state of debt slavery, they would drop their present employers of weddings and funerals. A man will Indeed, it is hard to describe the condi- lays of letter carriers brought dispatches banks of the Nile.

dealt with seventy-five strikes, and it is everywhere the women are paid less than increasing their exact indebted- letter in many parts of the republic. a mixed breed, and some hundreds of they were caught. The Indians of that now taxing the product of each factory the men and the boys less than the have a wedding or a funeral. The only on the basis of its hours of work and women. This is so in the tobacco fac- way they can escape is by getting their exact indebted letter in many parts of the republic. a mixed breed, and some hundreds of they were caught. The Indians of that have a wedding or a funeral. The only on the basis of its hours of work and women. This is so in the tobacco fac- way they can escape is by getting their debts. There are several minions of within twenty-four nodes from the time and the republic. a mixed breed, and some hundreds of they were caught. The Indians of that have a wedding or a funeral. The only of work and women. This is so in the tobacco fac- way they can escape is by getting the republic. The indians they were far better clad than they are come stories of flogging, and there is un- there are something like 12 000,000 who now. The women had skirts and petti-I had a talk last night with an Ameri- sometimes done by the neighboring haci- The men were then able to contract, and doubtedly forced labor on certain of the can neither read nor write. There have coats of different lengths, and these were been a number of laws making education of fine texture and prettily embroidered. free and compulsory, but they have been The people made beautiful toys and were honored in the breach rather than in the skillful in metals, making hatchets of observance, and today there are some- copper alloyed with tin and great plates sisting of pieces of leather bound on with thing like 12,000 schools for a population of gold and silver wonderfully carved. about one-sixth that of the United States, We do not know just how much gold Corthe job. It shows a condition more cor- and the school population is not one- tez carried away, but among the first

by the Spaniards and a large proportion \$6, but such a suit will last several years. of them have been slaves ever since. I agitated by the reformers of Mexico to- man, whereupon the foreman swore at This condition seems all the worse when wish I could show you how they are livthey have huts of sun-dried brick, many er strips tied to the bare feet with strings.

In traveling through the mountainous regions the board roofs are few of such huts are nails used, ropes and wythes taking their places.

are made of cane and poles. The poles

dians live in tenement houses, whole families often being crowded into one room. Many of the larger buildings have the poor on the first floor and the better lasses above. On the outskirts are the iomes of squatters made of refuse material from tin cans to store boxes and there are some huts of sun-drive so low that the people have t

the poorer buts, such as you can find in almost any part of the republic. I entered one last week whose ground floor was not bigger than that of a kitchen of two-family flat. It had walls of railroad ties stood upon end and ties laid across the top formed the roof. A cradle bung from the roof and out of it a baby with a skin as red as a freshly boiled lobster blinked at me as I entered. A frowsy peon woman was rocking the cradle, and two copper-faced children hung round

I looked for furniture. There were only wo stools and a mat which was spread forn was soaking, and just above hung rom the rafters was a bunch of the red

an inch of her shapely brown ankles. Her had on and the blue cotton rebosa or shawl which I could see hanging from one of the projecting railroad ties at the

As I chucked the baby under the chin the father entered. He was better clad than his wife, and his clothing was cleaner. It consisted of a white cotton shirt, pair of wide cotton trousers and a red blanket which was thrown over the shoulders. He had on a straw hat with a brim as large around as a parasol, and He wore no shoes, but had sandals con-

Vera Cruz you may see good-sized boys

## STRANGE CONVICT REPUBLIC EXISTS UNKNOWN FOR TWENTY YEARS IN EASTERN

DISCOVERED by Kasimir Veliki, the Explorer-It Has More Stringent Laws Than Any Other Community in the World-Russian Government Does Not Know What to Do With the Inhabitants, Who Have Violated Almost Every Law of the · Land-To Prevent Word of Their Existence Reaching the Outside World They Have Murdered Most of the Unfortunate Travelers Who Have Fallen Into Their Hands.

Special Correspondence of The Star. ST. PETERSBURG, April 17, 1915. NE of the mos: troublesome tasks of Privy Councilor N. A. Maglakoff, who has just been brought from governing Tchernigoff to the ministry of the interior, is to decide what should be done with the Imansk republic, the mysterious commonwealth whose deeds and terrors have astonished Russia during the past six months. For twenty years this Imansk republic has existed in the czar's dominions, with its own constitution, laws, punishments, printing press, and police, yet its discovery is only recent.

The Imansk republic was found last year by the traveler Kasimir Veliki, who had made a tour up to the Ussuri and up part of the Iman river to look for sables. It lies 300 miles from Vladivostock in an unexplored part of Primorsk province, in the valley of a tributary of the Ussuri. It is entirely within the Russian empire, and all other villages and settlements in the neighborhood are officially known, and are subject to the jurisdiction of the czar's government.

was in a Russo-Chinese community which valled itself "Imanskaya Respublika," and claimed to be independent both of the czar and the government of Peking. Over a dirty inn floated a flag which resembled the Russian tricolor, but was embroidered with a bad copy of the Chinese dragon. By a stroke of luck, and after surprising adventures, Veliki escaped before he could find out more bout this unknown republic.

At Vladivostock Veliki's story was at first not believed. Afterward a commission of inquiry was sent out under escort of 500 Cossasks, with three mounted guns. The commission occupied the town surprise, and returned to Vladivostock with a complete report. It discovered that the republic had first been started as a holy retreat for ascetics and that it afterward fell into the hands of Russian and Chinese convicts and prospered





RELIGIOUS RITES IN THE NEWLY DISCOVERED RUSSIAN CONVICT REPUBLIC. The settlement has just been visited by a government commission under military protection, and a strange code of laws, more strict than that of the ancient Hebrews, has been revealed.

struck by the secluded position of the Veliki.

wandered about Siberia and Russia as a and laws, and in the village and coun- the commission that the laws had been besserebrennik"—a beggar.

try around counted nearly 5,000 adher- approved by the Chinese government.

When traveling in East Asia he was ents at the time it was discovered by The commission concluded that this was an untruth devised in order to prevent Iman valley. He gave \$5,000 to three The Russian commission, carefully the Imansk executioners being prose-holy men to build log houses and a log guarded by the 500 Cossacks, set itself cuted as common murderers. If that church. The good men and twenty other to examine the laws and economic state were done half the male population of

Whoever steals a sable skin is buried Whoever steals the roots of the yen- The Imansk "starshina," or elder, is schen plant is drowned.

punishment is death:

Whoever does not keep a dog as watch the constitutional chief of the republic. make for a Russian settlement is

hanged, and he is beaten with sticks. Imansk republicans are mighty gamolers, and they have a rigid code regulating gambling. Cheating is almost the looks like a pure Chinese. the 15th of November and the 15th of De- their existence a secret from the outcember in each year. Every Imansk citizen who comes into the village from a neighboring farm has a right to de- and tramps who have fallen into their fess a quaint mixture of the two. The



hanged. If his wife only is guilty she is All these families are of mixed Russian whole population of Imansk must be and Chinese blood, and the present chief put on trial for murder, and it is very

> hands have always been put to death. Znamenskys and the aristocracy of except where they undertook to join Imansk claim that the mixed Christianthe republic and never to leave it, ity and Confucianism is the "state reli-This choice, however, was very seldom or me in the republic and make an attempt to es-M. Kyrill Feodoroff, the rich grain over to Christianity, but the heads of merchant of Mariinsk, who disappeared the village opposed this and obliged them ed mysteriously five years ago, fell a victim to the republic's laws. In July, to adopt the new mixed religion." The 1907. M. Feedoroff, with two Cossack republicans, it seems, are equally reaservants, went exploring in the Sun- sonable about race. "The Chinese and garl and Iman districts. They were seized near Imansk town by Znamensky and the guards of the republican about skin color. They intermarry on government. One Cossack was killed equal terms." Marital unfaithfulness. while resisting. Feederoff and the when the culprit is a woman, is one of of the feet and given pardon on condition that they stayed in the republic, stances are given. An escaped woman and abandoned all hope of ever re- convict from Saghalien, who had left heturning home. In order to save their hind her a convict husband, married aclives they promised. Feodoroff was given up for dead, and his wife sold cording to mixed religion rites a subject his house in Mariinsk and migrated to of the Imansk state. Soon afterward she Moscow.

also wanted to leave the republic. The offend. They got this idea from the Chinaman pretended to be going fish- Chinese. Their law provides the severest ing and took the two Russians in his punishments for women, but none at all boat, covering them with matting. The for men. In one year four women were canoe captized in a rapid, and the but to death."
What will become of the Imansk re-Chinaman and the Cossack were public is not yet settled. It is still flourdrowned. Feodoroff swam ashore and ishing. The Cossacks withdrew when the fell into the hands of the republicans. commission returned to Vladivistok. The lie was taken back to Imansk, where Imansk people thereupon held a meeting the jurisdiction of the czar's government. Velik' hit upon it accidentally, and with peril to himself.

When crossing country which in the some isolated farms, and, further on, a count a thousand houses. Imagining himself to be near an unknown of about a thousand houses. It is settlement, the went on, and came recludes extilement, the went on, and came of the republic, which was a strict being a more severe than that of the republic cans. They had opposed the response to prayed upon the republic cans. They had opposed the response to the republic cans. They had opposed the republic cans. They had opposed the response to the republic cans. They had opposed the response to the republic cans. They had opposed the response to the republic cans. They had opposed the response to the republic cans. They had opposed the response to the resist by force any which in the back to Imansk would have to be put on trial.

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Russian mainter the laws and economic state of the republic cans. They had opposed the response to the resist by force any which is the was taken back to Imansk would have to be put on trial.

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Russian mainter of Yakitak convicts, where the republic cans. They had opposed the response to the resist by force any which they had not the possible of the wrept of the republic cans. They had opposed the resist by force any which they had have to be put on trial.

INNOKENTI SIBILIANOFF,

Russian mainter of Yakitak convicts, where the village a man was well as they had the state to the wre dent the the fall where the the state to the mansk would hav

less the Russian commission admits M. Maklakoff at present is whether to punish those guilty of executions and doubtful whether any jury would con vict them.

The Imansk republic has its own Gambling is allowed only between extraordinary precautions to keep toms as regards women. Some Russian

> "Numerous Chinese." says the commis The commission discovered that sion's report, "wanted at one time to go tired of the new husband, ran away and

was found in the house of the chief of Imansk police. She was burned to death. In the spring of 1908 Feodoroff and Her lover was not punished. "Such the other Cossack tried to escape. They laid their plot with a Chinaman who also wanted to leave the republic. The